Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, A free press, an open society and free-flowing information go hand-in-hand in enabling democracy; and,

Whereas, Openness gives citizens the vital information they need to make democracy's ultimate choice in the voting booth. Free elections work only if voters have all the information, not just part of it; and,

Whereas, Openness promotes confidence in governance and increases the government's efficiency by laying bare examples of waste and extravagance; and,

Whereas, Openness minimizes the risk of corruption and abuse of power. From Watergate to the Clinton pardons, the publicizing of once secret records serves as a powerful reminder about the consequences of misusing power; and,

Whereas, Openness improves public safety by highlighting dangers such as disease, crime and hazardous materials and promotes an understanding of government by providing a complete story, not incomplete parts. Democracy works best when the public participates in shaping public policy. For that to happen, citizens must understand it; and,

Whereas, Sunshine Week in South Dakota will join the efforts of South Dakotans for open government, daily and weekly newspapers, radio and television broadcasters, librarians and educators to explain why open government and freedom of information are important to everyone, not just to journalists, and to educate Americans about their rights and to express concern about how our democracy is affected if these rights erode; and,

Whereas, The need to balance security and privacy concerns in an open and democratic society is the responsibility of all Americans to maintain. In the immortal words of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Sunshine is the best disinfectant and the electrical light the best policeman":

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 13 – 19, 2005, as

SUNSHINE WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State